

in the parish church before the university and the clergy. He wrangled fearlessly in a theological disputation with Winram, to prove that the pope was Antichrist and the mass " an abominable idolatry.¹⁰ From the pulpit of the parish church to the slave galley was a strange transformation, yet for nineteen months after the fall of the castle this was the fate of the fearless preacher in common with most of his rebellious associates. Even the horrible life of a galley slave did not break the iron spirit of the man, and his faith in himself and his mission never forsook him. On one occasion the galley in which he was chained to the oar was off the Scottish coast between Dundee and St Andrews. Pointing to the steeple of the church in which he had thundered defiance to Antichrist, one of his companions, James Balfour, asked him whether he recognised it. " Yes," said Knox, " I know it weall; for I see the stepill of that place where God first in publict opened my mouth to his glorie, and I am fullie persuaded, how weak that ever I now appear, that I shall not departe this lyf till that my toung shall giorifie his godlie name in the same place."

He was released about the beginning of 1549, and spent the next five years in England as one of the most active leaders of the premature reform movement in the reign of Edward VI. He was made a royal chaplain, and was even offered the bishopric of Rochester, but he preferred the humbler post of licensed preacher, first at Berwick, and afterwards at Newcastle. He took an influential part, however, in the theological discussions of the time, and the Calvinist character of the Second Prayer Book is ascribed to him. At Newcastle and Berwick, as at St Andrews, he was the fervent and outspoken witness for the new creed, and even lifted up his testimony against the shortcomings of politicians like Northumberland. The accession of Mary sent him once more across the Channel to tarry for the day of the Lord, whilst ministering to congregations of English refugees at Frankfort and Geneva.

By this time he was close on fifty years of age, and had in the main assimilated most of the dogmas, religious and political, which he was to champion with inflexible persistence as leader of the Scottish Reformation. His stay at Geneva, in close association with Calvin, extending, with some considerable interruptions, over the next five years, put the finishing touch to